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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 8th, 2020

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Iowa Youth Congress Finalizes 2020 State Policy Initiatives

The Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) is a year long youth advocacy program which consists of up to 100 high-school-aged youth of all backgrounds around Iowa. Members write, debate and advocate for issues important to youth in Iowa. Members also benefit their community through service. IYC provides Iowa youth the opportunity to learn about state government, democracy, advocacy and civic engagement through events at the Capitol and in their local regions.

As part of the Congress, members write and debate position statements. Previous successful IYC issues that have been signed into law include: the suicide prevention training for school employees and the ban on texting while driving.

On October 28th, 2019, IYC finalized its 2020 state policy initiatives during the Mock Congress. This year, the Congress has three priority areas: environment, health, and public safety. The Congress will advocate for the following issues during the 2020 legislative session:

Checkout Bag Tax - Implement a five-cent tax on single-use plastic bags.

Join the U.S. Climate Alliance – Mandate that Iowa joins the U.S. Climate Alliance to encourage environmental protection policies in Iowa.

Sales-Tax Exemption of Menstrual-Health Products -- Remove the tax on menstrual products and replace the funds with a sales tax.

Universal Background Checks for Gun Owners – Mandate universal background checks for all gun dealers and owners.

IYC will be advocating for these four position statements and will work with legislators, professionals, and experts to enact change.

To receive IYC updates please follow the Iowa Department of Human Rights on Twitter and Facebook @IowaDHR. For detailed position statements and more in-depth council information please visit SIYAC's website at <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/iowa-youth-congress>

IYC is a part of the Iowa Department of Human Rights, whose mission is to ensure basic rights and freedoms and opportunities for all by empowering underrepresented Iowans and eliminating economic, social and cultural barriers.

Iowa Youth Congress

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